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ALAIR Newsletter

Spring 2026

President's Message

I can't believe it has already been a more than a month since we were together in Opelika for the 2026 annual ALAIR Conference! Vice President and Conference Chair Jeffrey Guenther did a great job putting together a wonderful conference full of helpful roundtable discussions, informative concurrent sessions, and networking opportunities with some outstanding vendors and colleagues. Not to mention...PINBALL! He'll provide a more detailed conference update below.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your past Vice President/Conference Chair and President! As incoming Past President, I will chair the incoming Nominating and Awards committees. Additionally, at the 2026 ALAIR Conference, an ad hoc committee was formed to evaluate online payment and membership management vendors. We have several demos scheduled in the near future and I look forward to sharing with the membership our recommendation to move forward.

The Executive Committee is already planning the transition meeting in June, and I look forward to what the new leadership has in store! ALAIR will be in good hands with incoming President Jeffrey Guenther, and Michelle Tin, incoming Vice President and Conference Chair, has already shared some exciting ideas for ALAIR 2027.

Finally, I want to thank all of the amazing members of ALAIR! Whether a member of the Executive Committee, presenter, or newcomer, this is a wonderful group to be a part of and I am excited for what the future has in store for us!

Jessica Carroll
ALAIR President, 2025-2026
Assistant Director, Organizational Effectiveness and Research
Alabama Community College System



Vice President/Conference Chair's Message

Dear ALAIR Members and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that a month has already passed since our 2026 Annual Conference in Opelika! I would like to extend my gratitude to the fifty-five attendees, incredible presenters, and our sponsors for making the 2026 conference a success. Special thanks go to the Executive Committee and Southern Union State Community College for their invaluable behind-the-scenes support. For those who attended the Thursday night dinner and special event, I hope that you enjoyed the casual conversation and friendly pinball competition.

The Executive Committee has reviewed feedback from the conference evaluation survey, and these insights will help us make the 2027 conference even better. I am excited to pass along what we've learned to Michelle Tin, who will serve as our 2027 Vice President and Conference Chair—I have complete confidence in her leadership.

Stay tuned for upcoming events! If your institution has already identified its 2027 spring break dates, please share them with Michelle or me so we can announce a 2027 conference *save the date* as soon as possible.

Respectfully,
Jeff

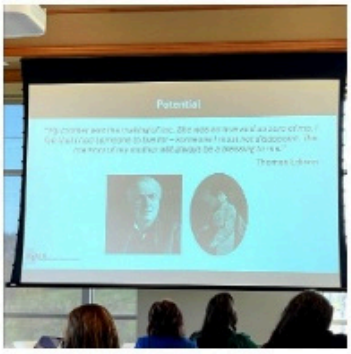


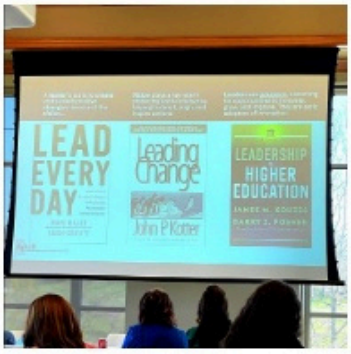
Jeffrey Guenther
Vice President/Conference Chair, 2025-2026
Assistant Provost for Planning, Budgeting, and Assessment
Athens State University

Growth & Transformation Through Institutional Research









2026 ALAIR Awards

Joseph T. Sutton Leadership Award



ALAIR was proud to present the 2026 Joseph T. Sutton Leadership award to two individuals this year who have demonstrated exceptional service to the field of institutional research and effectiveness, as well as to our organization and the state of Alabama: Dr. Kelly Birchfield, Director of the Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Research for the Alabama Community College System, and Mandy Sessions, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Wallace Community College.

Thank you both for your tireless efforts and long-standing dedication!



Sam Lowther Travel Grant

Congratulations to Emily Rothenbacher, Institutional Research Analyst at the University of Alabama, recipient of the 2026 Sam Lowther Travel Grant.

Best Presentation Winner

"From Fall to Spring: Using Persistence Data and AI-Assisted Analysis to Drive Student Success" by Mandy Sessions, Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Wallace Community College, was selected as the Best Presentation. Congratulations, Mandy!



Click the buttons below to access:

2026 Treasurer's Report

2026 Business Meeting Minutes

(to be approved at the 2027 Annual Business Meeting)

Thanks to Rock 'n Roll Pinball in Historic Downtown Opelika, AL for hosting our special event during the conference!

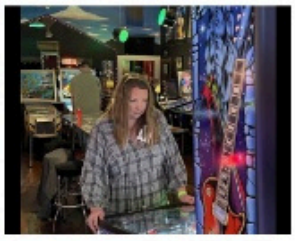












ALAIR Leadership

As we give our thanks to our current and outgoing ALAIR officers, we are happy to

welcome the 2026-2027 officers selected at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting!

2025-2026
PRESIDENT: Jessica Carroll, Alabama Community College System
VICE PRESIDENT/CONFERENCE CHAIR: Jeffrey Guenther, Athens State University
PAST-PRESIDENT: Preston Robinson, Tuskegee University
SECRETARY: Michelle Tin, The University of Alabama
TREASURER: Jesse Lowe, The University of Alabama at Birmingham
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Brian McGhee, University of South Alabama
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mattie Hudson, Wallace State Community College

2026-2027
PRESIDENT: Jeffrey Guenther, Athens State University
VICE PRESIDENT/CONFERENCE CHAIR: Michelle Tin, The University of Alabama
PAST-PRESIDENT: Jessica Carroll, Alabama Community College System
SECRETARY: Jeanne Stribling, Wallace Community College
TREASURER: Jesse Lowe, The University of Alabama at Birmingham
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: John Glasscock, Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE)
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Katherine Mann, Auburn University at Montgomery

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Upcoming Conferences

2026 AIR Forum

The 2026 AIR Forum will be held May 26-29, 2026 in Washington, D.C., with pre-conference education on May 25-26. The conference will take place at the Marriott Marquis in Downtown Washington, D.C. Hotel accommodations are available at the same location, with additional rooms at the nearby Westin D.C. Downtown, both at a discounted rate for conference attendees.

2026 SACSCOC Summer Institute

The 2026 SACSCOC Summer Institute will be held July 19-22, 2026 in Atlanta, GA at the Hilton Atlanta. Registration is now open.

2026 SAIR Conference

The 2026 SAIR conference will be held October 24-27, 2026 in Little Rock, AR at the Little Rock Marriott. Early Bird registration is now open! Rates will increase at the end of August. Click on the SAIR logo for registration rates and hotel information.

2026 SACSCOC Annual Meeting

The 2026 SACSCOC Annual Meeting will be held December 5-8, 2026 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX. The Call for Proposals is now open.



Michelle Tin
ALAIR Secretary, 2025-26